



File Code: 2720
Date: October 22, 2021

Honorable Jack Potter
Chairman
Redding Rancheria
2000 Redding Rancheria Road
Redding, CA 96001

Dear Chairman Potter:

The Hat Creek Ranger District of the Lassen National Forest (LNF) is initiating scoping for the Hat Creek Maintenance Station Driveway Project. Enclosed is a copy of the Proposed Action, Purpose and Need, and Decision to be made.

Caltrans has applied for a new special use permit to construct and maintain new driveway access to the existing Hat Creek Maintenance Station.

The Hat Creek Ranger District has made a preliminary assessment that this proposal falls within (3) Approval, modification, or continuation of minor special uses of NFS lands that require less than five contiguous acres of land, which would exclude it from documentation in an Environmental Assessment (EA) or Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) (Forest Service Handbook (FSH) 1909.15, Chapter 30). Categorically excluded projects are no longer subject to legal notice and comment and appeal procedures pursuant to Section 434 of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2014 and Section 8006(a)&(b) of the Agricultural Act (Farm Bill) of 2014.

The opportunity for participants such as you to express your concerns and share your knowledge about a specific area is very important to our planning process. Your participation enables the Forest to consider your concerns and adapt project planning accordingly. Your knowledge of and interest in this area are always of great value to the LNF. I am particularly interested in knowing any potential issues with traditional activities, practices, or beliefs associated with anticipated effects from this proposed action. Input, as it relates to the proposed action and identification of any issues (point of discussion, debate, or dispute) about the anticipated effects from this proposed action, is always the most helpful.

The Forest Service is following USDA and CDC public health COVID-19 guidance. The LNF continues to remain open, operational, and committed to our mission's continuity. At this time, our primary delivery of operation will occur through virtual means (i.e., telephone and online service).



Comments, written or virtual, may be submitted to Robin Wall, District Ranger, Hat Creek Ranger District, P.O. Box 220, Fall River Mills, CA. 96028, Phone # (530) 336-5521, FAX # (530) 336-5758 during regular business hours. Hat Creek Ranger District business hours are from 8:00 am to 4:30 pm Monday through Friday.

Electronic comments, in acceptable plain text (.txt), rich text (.rtf), or Word (.doc) formats, may be submitted to: comments-pacificsouthwest-lassen-hat-creek@fs.fed.us with **Subject:** Hat Creek Maintenance Station Driveway Project.

As always, you may give input at any time on this project until the decision, but I am requesting you respond in writing before **November 19, 2021**, to ensure your input can be properly considered as we move into the next phase of the NEPA process. A decision regarding this proposal is expected in November 2021. Please get in touch with me (contact information above) to discuss this scoping period or arrange a meeting or field visit. Additional information regarding this action can be obtained from Nancy Barrera, (530) 257-2151, or at nancy.barrera@usda.gov.

Thank you for your interest and participation in the environmental analysis process on the Lassen. The LNF values its commitment and responsibility to maintaining a collaborative government-to-government relationship with Tribes. If you have any questions about the government-to-government consultation process, don't hesitate to contact Linn Gassaway, Tribal Relations Liaison, at (530) 252-6480.

Sincerely,



DEB BUMPUS
Forest Supervisor

Enclosures (2)

cc: Melodie Honey (Email)